

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Douglas Tomb State Memorial

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
636 East <sup>35<sup>th</sup></sup> State Street

CITY, TOWN  
Chicago

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

STATE  
Illinois

VICINITY OF  
CODE

COUNTY  
Cook

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK → ?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Memorial

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
LAW Historic Sites  
Division of Parks and Memorials, Department of Conservation, State of Ill.

STREET & NUMBER  
901 South Spring Street

CITY, TOWN  
Springfield

STATE  
Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cook County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Dearborn and Randolph Streets

CITY, TOWN  
Chicago

STATE  
Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE  
June, 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Div. of Parks and Memorials, Dept. of Conservation, State of Ill.

CITY, TOWN  
901 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706

# DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

*Historic site*

The tomb and monument are designed in a type common to the period. The Grant Monument in Lincoln Park in Chicago is quite similar in structure. The 96-foot Douglas Tomb State Memorial consists of a granite base surmounted by a 46-foot column supporting a bronze figure of Douglas nine feet nine inches high, standing in repose with scroll in his left hand and placed against his hip, his right hand thrust under the lapel of his tightly buttoned coat as he looks eastward over Lake Michigan.

The four pedestals of the base (which contain the tomb) are occupied by Illinois, History, Justice, and Eloquence, in sitting attitude. Then Fortune has her hand placed on the State Coat of Arms with ears of corn in the left hand and crowned with a chaplet of wheat, supposedly in the act of relating the story of the State to History on the opposite corner, who with a stylus in hand is about to record it upon the scroll lying across her lap. Her left foot rests upon a pile of tablets. Justice rests her right hand upon a sheathed sword and holds plans in her left hand. Eloquence points with her right hand toward the statue of Douglas, while the left hand rests upon a lyre instrument.

There are four bas-reliefs in the panels of the main base representing the advance of American civilization.

Douglas' body is in a sarcophagus of Vermont Marble from his home county. It supports a bust of him by Leonard Volk. Originally the base and sepulchre were made of Joliet "Athens Marble" (a local, high-quality limestone). Now only the door sill is of that material. All of the exposed material was changed to granite in 1877.

The marble sarcophagus containing the remains of one of Illinois' most gifted sons, bear the following inscription: "Stephen A. Douglas / Born / April 23, 1813 / Died / June 3, 1861 / 'Tell my children to obey the laws and uphold the Constitution.'"

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1849;1868;1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Leonard W. Volk(&J. M. Van Osdell?)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stephen Arnold Douglas came to Illinois at the age of twenty in 1833. While teaching school he passed his bar exam, entered politics, and rose to be the national leader of his party. He held various State offices until his election to the United States Senate in 1847, where he served until his death in June, 1861.

Douglas was the first statesman from Illinois to gain national prominence. In this role he is chiefly noted for his leadership in the issue over the Kansas-Nebraska Act (which he drafted), the promotion of the Illinois Central Railroad, and the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 which played a large part in Lincoln's electoral victory over Douglas for the Presidency in 1860 and a milestone on the road to the Civil War.

Douglas' fame as a national figure is well-established, but he was also important to Illinois and Chicago. In 1849 he purchased 53 acres on what was then the southern boundary of the city. This was to be his estate. He named it "Oakenwald". He is buried in the southeast portion of that estate.

The whole area surrounding the Douglas Tomb is touched with the lasting influence of Douglas. In 1856 the first University of Chicago opened on ten acres of land given by Douglas from the western portion of his property. On an adjoining piece of land the government built Camp Douglas, the second largest training base and prison camp in the Civil War. The eastern edge of the Douglas Tomb State Memorial is the Illinois Central right-of-way which exists because of Douglas' efforts. The Tomb itself is built on the spot Douglas intended for his home. Even today, parks and streets in the area named for him and a neighborhood school called Oakenwald are reminders of Douglas' presence. The tomb is the keystone in the arch between Douglas' national life and his place in Chicago history. There is no other monument for Douglas.

Immediately after his death an association of notable Chicagoans was formed to undertake the construction of a suitable tomb and monument. Fund-raising by private subscription and sales of momentos were a failure so in 1865 the State purchased the tomb-site from Douglas' widow for \$25,000. It has been owned by the state ever since. On June 3, 1868, Douglas' body was placed in the completed portion of the tomb. Leonard Volk, an established sculptor and relative of Douglas, designed the tomb and monument. In 1871 the Chicago Fire destroyed Volk's plans for the uncompleted structure. New appropriations totaling \$59,000 were made by 1879. Records show that \$300 of this went to John M. Van Osdell for "professional services". The tomb was completed in May 1881, after an expense of \$90,000. *Historic Sites*

Today the Douglas Tomb State Memorial with its gardens are operated by the Division of ~~Parks and Memorials~~ of the Illinois Department of Conservation. It is open free to the public everyday except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

*Land & Historic Sites*

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Andreas, A.T. History of Chicago. Chicago: A.T. Andreas Co., 1885. V.II, pp.303-306  
 Douglas Monument Association. Organization, Constitution, and By-Laws. Chicago:  
 Chicago Times Job Printing Establishment, 1962. (In Ill. State Hist. Library).  
 Illinois. General Assembly. Reports to the General Assembly.... 1881, v. 3, L  
 (Final Report of the Douglas Monument Commissioners. May 28, 1881).  
 Johannsen, Robert W. Steven A. Douglas. Oxford University Press, 1973.

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.2

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 449030 46131050  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the Illinois Central right-of-way west along Thirty-fifth Street 400 feet, then 266 feet north, then 260 feet east, then angling southeast back to the beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

### 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Theodore Hild, National Register Assistant

DATE 12 December, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Office of Preservation Services, Ill. Dept of Conservation

STREET & NUMBER

901 South Spring Street

TELEPHONE

(217) 782-6752

CITY OR TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

### 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER